

Living Archaeology Weekend Wins State Preservation Award



(Frankfort, 13 July 2014) Living Archaeology Weekend has won Preservation Kentucky's 2014 Edith S. Bingham Excellence in Preservation Education Award. The award honors preservation educators, projects, or programs that have demonstrated excellence in traditional or non-traditional educational arenas.

A free, annual, two-day event, LAW has educated tens of thousands of visitors over 25 years, celebrating its silver anniversary in 2013. The event is held every September at the Gladie Learning Center in eastern Kentucky's Red River Gorge, a National Archaeological District and National Natural Landmark.

The objective of LAW is to provide school children and the general public with diverse, high-quality, multi-sensory educational opportunities in American Indian and pioneer technologies and other lifeways, archaeological interpretation, and archaeological site preservation.



A school group enters Gladie Cabin for activities on cultural resource preservation at LAW 2013.

Many LAW activities focus on preservation and stewardship. At the event, demonstrators urge visitors to protect rock art sites, show the damaging impacts of looting, and model Leave No Trace methods.

Essays, posters, lesson plans, and other educational materials created by the LAW Steering Committee cover topics like the National Register of Historic Places and ways the public can protect archaeological sites.

LAW's souvenir magnet features a preservation message. Students from participating schools write essays in response to the question "Why is preserving cultural resources in the Red River Gorge important?" as part of an annual contest.

Living Archaeology Weekend was created in 1989 by the U.S. Forest Service. Since 2006, the event has been organized by the U.S. Forest Service, the Kentucky Organization of Professional Archaeologists, and the Kentucky Archaeological Survey, which is jointly administered by the Kentucky Heritage Council and the University of Kentucky.

Formed in 1998, Preservation Kentucky is the Commonwealth's statewide nonprofit historic preservation organization. It is a membership-based organization devoted to preserving buildings, structures, and sites in every region and every town in the state. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate in Preservation Kentucky.

LAW 2014 is scheduled for Friday-Saturday, September 19-20. For more information, visit www.livingarchaeologyweekend.org.

The 2014 Preservation Kentucky awards ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, September 20 at historic Ward Hall in Georgetown. Visit preservationkentucky.org/newsEvents.php for more information.

